

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO. 10/726,994
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 INVENTORS Kedar R. Belhe
 ASSIGNEE St. Jude Medical
 EXAMINER Julian W. Woo
 ART UNIT 3731
 ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. 47563.0015
 TITLE "Suture Based Vascular Closure Apparatus and Method Incorporating a Pre-Tied Knot"

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

To: Mail Stop Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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This communication is intended to be fully responsive to the Office Action dated 18 October 2006, concerning the above-identified patent application.

Listing of the Claims begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows. Applicants have used the convention underline to indicate added text and ~~strike through~~ to indicate deleted text.